



Pacific Islands Critical Habitat Update

Aloha!

Welcome to the seventh edition of the Pacific Islands Critical Habitat Update. Since our last update, the following final critical habitat designations have been published in the *Federal Register*:

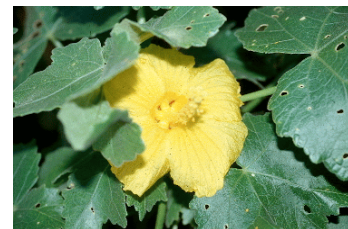
April 9	Kauai Cave Invertebrates
May 14	Maui and Kahoolawe Plants
May 22	Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Plants
June 10	Blackburn's Sphinx Moth
June 17	Oahu Plants
July 2	Big Island Plants

You may find a complete list of the published rules under "Published Final Rules" on page 2. The Government of Guam filed a motion in Federal Court to extend the deadline for the Guam and Rota vertebrates. The court granted an indefinite extension and scheduled a status conference on October 7, 2003.

As we near the end of 5 years of work on critical habitat for 255 plants, four invertebrates, three birds, and a fruit bat species, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your participation in and contributions to the process. I believe we all - from my fellow biologist in the Fish and Wildlife Service, to our partners in other agencies, to other interest group members, to private landowners - have learned much from each other during this process. Although some (or maybe all!) may not be satisfied with the critical habitat designations, I hope everyone feels they had an opportunity to make a difference and that their participation was valuable.

We plan to issue one more Critical Habitat Update, but we will also invite you to stay informed about Fish and Wildlife Service activities in the Pacific Islands by visiting our website at <http://pacificislands.fws.gov>. If you have any questions, suggestions, or would like more information, please feel free to contact us at:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office
300 Ala Moana Blvd., Rm. 3-122
Honolulu, HI 96850
Phone: (808) 792-9400
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Hibiscus brachenridgei
Photo courtesy of Greg Koob (USFWS)

Please note our new telephone numbers above. We switched our telephone system in an effort to provide better service to our customers (and to our staff!). Mahalo for your continued interest in Pacific islands critical habitat!

Paul Henson, Ph.D.
Field Supervisor

MEETINGS

Since all comment periods have ended, our staff has been meeting with the public to provide information regarding critical habitat. Some of the recent meetings are listed below.

RECENT MEETINGS

Topics and Participants	Date	Location
General Critical Habitat; Kona Rotary Club	March 20, 2003	Kona
General Critical Habitat; U.S. Army	March 26, 2003	Schofield Barracks
Oahu and Big Island Plants; DLNR	March 24, 2003	Honolulu
General Critical Habitat; State of Hawaii	April 21, 2003	Honolulu
Kauai Cave Invertebrates; Keahuna Golf Course	May 13, 2003	Honolulu
Kauai Cave Invertebrates; Knudsen Trust	May 29, 2003	Honolulu
Guam/Rota Vertebrates; Guam DAWR, FWS Refuge, U.S. Navy, U.S. Air Force	June 18, 2003	Teleconference

UPCOMING MEETINGS

There are no meetings scheduled because the public comment periods on all of the proposals have closed.

PUBLISHED FINAL RULES

Final rules designating critical habitat have been published in the *Federal Register* for the following species and can be found on the web at: pacificislands.fws.gov under critical habitat updates.

RULE	DATE PUBLISHED	FEDERAL REGISTER
Oahu elepaio	December 10, 2001	66 FR 63751
Newcomb's snail	August 20, 2002	67 FR 8849
Lanai Plants	January 9, 2003	68 FR 1220
Kauai and Niihau Plants	February 27, 2003	68 FR 9116
Molokai Plants	March 18, 2003	68 FR 12981
Kauai Cave Invertebrates	April 9, 2003	68 FR 17429
Maui and Kahoolawe Plants	May 14, 2003	68 FR 25933
Northwestern Hawaiian Islands	May 22, 2003	68 FR 28053
Blackburn's Sphinx Moth	June 10, 2003	68 FR 34710
Oahu Plants	June 17, 2003	68 FR 35950
Big Island Plants	July 2, 2003	68 FR 39624

STATUS OF FINAL RULES AND CURRENT COURT-ORDERED DEADLINES

RULE	FINAL RULE TO BE SUBMITTED TO <i>FEDERAL REGISTER</i>
Guam and Rota Vertebrates	To be determined by the court after October 7, 2003 status conference